



George
LeMieux
U.S. Senator *for* Florida

E- NEWSLETTER

Thank you for subscribing to my weekly update - a brief summary of some of the more notable events during the last seven days. I hope you'll find this useful and informative. You can also follow my regular updates from Florida and Washington via [YouTube](#), [Twitter](#) and [Facebook](#).

It is an honor and a privilege to serve as your United States Senator and I look forward to hearing from you. If you want to share this newsletter with a friend, sign them up today at <http://LeMieux.Senate.gov>.



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Oil Spill Crisis Update

Saturday I was in Pensacola as the first tar balls began coming ashore on some of Florida's most pristine beaches, and it appears that winds and currents will continue to present an oil threat to Florida's coastline. I commend Pensacola Mayor Mike Wiggins, Escambia County Commission Chair Grover Robinson, and Escambia County Administrator Larry Newsome for their leadership in handling the crisis at the local level. They are doing a great job to ensure our beaches stay clean and resources are in place when they are needed.



Though local and state leaders are doing a good job in the face of this crisis, Washington has not taken the steps necessary to protect our shores and economic lifeblood. It is time for President Obama and his administration to demonstrate engaged leadership. We cannot outsource the health and livelihood of our Gulf Coast communities to an oil company. There are specific roles for a federal government, including leading the charge to handle a crisis of this magnitude. Click on the video below to hear my views on how the President can help.



Job and Business Resources

Growing Florida's economy is critical to our state's future success. Knowing the difficult challenges our economy presents, our office is providing information for both employers and job seekers. Employers can access information about federal agencies that provide business information and assistance on our [Business Resources Page](#). Job seekers can learn more about job fairs, workforce training, and entrepreneurial opportunities on our [Job Fairs homepage](#). Since our office began hosting and promoting job fairs, more than 10,000 people have participated including 500 employers. Through these events, more than 2,000 Floridians have found work.

Washington can help by supporting new trade agreements. It is estimated small and mid-size businesses account for almost one-third of all U.S. exports. On top of that, small and mid-size businesses account for nearly 30 percent of the value of all U.S. exports annually. With leadership from the White House, Congress could act this week on the South Korea, Colombia, and Panama trade agreements, boosting opportunities for U.S. businesses to sell goods and services abroad.

These trade agreements will create jobs in the U.S. Based on figures by the United States International Trade Commission, the Korea agreement will boost the economy by \$11.9 billion and implementing the Colombia agreement will increase our nation's gross domestic product by \$2.5 billion. [Click here to read a letter I joined in writing with my Senate colleagues to President Obama calling for immediate consideration and completion of the Korean, Colombian and Panamanian Free Trade Agreements \("FTA"\).](#)

Upcoming job events:

[Miami Professional and Diversity Career Fair](#) - Thursday, June 24, 2010

[Tampa Professional and Diversity Career Fair](#) - Monday, June 28, 2010

[Orlando Professional and Diversity Career Fair](#) - Tuesday, June 29, 2010

Federal Debt Surpasses \$13 Trillion

Last week, the U.S. Department of The Treasury confirmed that our country's national debt has surpassed \$13 trillion dollars. Runaway deficits and debt apparently mean nothing in Washington, because Congress continues looking for ways to spend more. It took our nation nearly 200 years to accumulate its first trillion in debt. Now, in less than a year, the government has increased our debt by more than a trillion dollars. Reducing the debt is a national priority.

We cannot continue spending money we don't have. The amount our government owes is projected to surpass our nation's annual economic output, which suggests that our country's economic growth won't be enough to support our borrowings. Our government needs to spend less, save more, and pay down our debt. At a time when Florida families are reexaminaing their budgets to cut spending and borrowing, it's unacceptable that Washington refuses to rein in its spending. [Click here to hear my views on the debt.](#)

Casework Corner

As your senator, one of my primary goals is to make sure Floridians are well served by Federal agencies. From time to time, I will share accounts of how our office has helped a Floridian.

Recently, our office received a call from a father concerning his 5 year old daughter's Medicaid coverage. While the young girl receives Social Security benefits and qualifies for Medicaid, her medical condition requires her to take two very expensive medications that Medicaid refused to cover until a specified time period.

Understandably frustrated and worried about his daughter's well being, the father contacted our office for assistance. Our office reached out to the health care liaison in the Florida Governor's office to discuss the issue. Working with the Governor's office, our caseworker was put in touch with a Volunteer Health Services Program in Jacksonville. The Volunteer Health Services Program has agreed to help provide the child with the medications she needs.

If you are experiencing a problem with a federal agency, please contact our Orlando Regional Office by calling (407) 254-2573 to speak with a member of the Casework Department. The toll-free number for Florida residents is (866) 630-7106. To find out more about how my office can help you, go to my website at <http://LeMieux.Senate.gov> or stop by one of our scheduled Community Office Hours in your area.

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